

# **Polar Bear Plunge**

February 2005

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## **Jesse McGill/ Environmental Correspondent:**

It's a cold twenty-eight degrees outside just on the shore line of the Chesapeake Bay in Maryland. The water is already starting to ice over, and spectators are laughing over what it would take for them to get into the water.

well at this years 9<sup>th</sup> annual polar bear plunge, colonel Tony Francis of the U-S Army Environmental center has two great reasons.

## **Col. Tony Francis/ Commander USAEC**

**“I accepted a challenge from the Army Environmental Center employees that if we would raise 500 dollars for some families for Christmas of some deploying soldiers, that I would take the plunge and we completely surpassed all of the goals so I am about to fulfill my end of the bargain and jump in the water.**

In addition to supporting the troops and their families, the USAEC commander was there to support the Maryland Special Olympics.

## **Col. Tony Francis/ USAEC:**

**I couldn't think of a better way to spend a Saturday than to be out here in the balmy 30 degree weather...supporting the Special Olympics... I AM READY TO GO!**

This was a record setting year, with the number of plungers surpassing more than 2-thousand, including Governor Ehrlich, Lt. Governor Steele, Baltimore Ravens Michael McCrary and the superintendent of the Maryland state police, col. Tim Hutchins.

**Tim Hutchins./Superintendent, Maryland State Police**

**Well this is an event that the Maryland state police have become engaged in or about 1997 as one of the prime movers and sponsors of it. And I'm here to continue support that, support the troops.**

This year's plunge raised more than 625-thousand dollars for the states 10-thousand special Olympians. Just off the Chesapeake in Sandy Point, MD, I'm Jesse McGill.